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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Official Concern over Tibetan Trade Group's Visit to the United States

PLACE 25X1A

ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO.

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 19 Jan 1949

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1A200610006-8

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. At a meeting of the Border Administration Committee of the Legislative Yuan on 30 October 1948, T'AN Ch'i-chen (譚其素) asked if the Mongolian-Tibetan Affairs Commission had had prior knowledge of the Tibetan Trade Group's intention to visit the United States. He also desired to know what lay behind the visit.
2. The reply made by HSU Shih-ying (許世英), head of the Mongolian-Tibetan Affairs Commission, included the following points:
 - a. When the Tibetan Trade Group was in Nanking it requested from the Government US \$2,000,000 for the purchase of commodities in the United States. The amount of US \$500,000 was granted, with an additional US \$50,000 for travelling expenses which the group refused.
Comment. The Tibetan Trade Group had asked for US \$600,000 for travelling expenses and refused to take the smaller amount which the government offered.)
 - b. The Mongolian-Tibetan Affairs Commission attempted to dissuade the Tibetan Trade Group from going to the United States. The Commission was assured by the Trade Group that the latter's mission was solely to buy goods which were not available in China, and that it had no political motive.
 - c. The Foreign Affairs Department was informed by the Chinese Ambassador in Washington and by the Consulate in New York that the Tibetan Trade Commission engaged in no political activity while in the United States, aside from one statement of political significance which appeared in a newspaper. This statement was not one which could affect China.
 - d. Members of the State Department in Washington who met with the Tibetan Trade Group reported that the only subjects of discussion were matters of trade.
 - e. The Chinese Embassy in Washington prevented the Tibetan Trade Commission from meeting the President of the United States.
 - f. Reports from the Chinese Embassy in London and from WANG Shih-chieh, head of the Foreign Affairs Department, indicated that the Tibetan Trade Group engaged in no political activity while in Great Britain.

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Document No. 6
NO CHANGE in Class. ☒
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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
DDA REG. 77/1763
Date: 3 May 78 By: 027